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Yukari Takigawa
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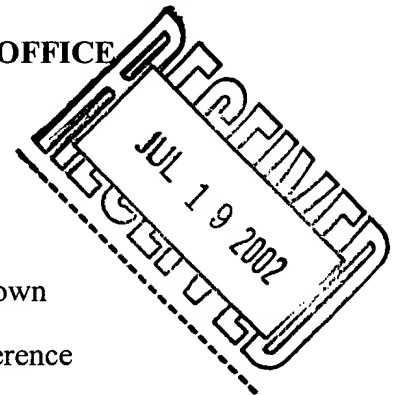
Docket No. 6514-9

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT OPERATION**

In re Application of: Kazutoyo MAEHIRO

Serial No. : 09/820,530 Group Art Unit : 2152
Filed : March 29, 2001 Examiner : Unknown
For : Method and Apparatus for Joining Electronic Conference

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND
STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE**

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits this Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") in accordance with its duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97-1.98. This IDS is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), before issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Also attached are copies of the cited references, together with a listing thereof on Form PTO-1449. Applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner's consideration of the cited references and entry into the record of this application.

Applicant notes for the record that cited reference U.S. Patent No. 5,896,500 is a member of a patent family, which includes U.S. Patent Nos. 5,758,079, 5,802,294, 5,854,893, 5,867,654, 5,689,641, and 5,915,091. When the disclosure of two or more patents or publications listed in an IDS are substantively cumulative, a copy of one of the patents or publications may be submitted without copies of the other patents or publications, provided that it is stated that these other patents or publications are cumulative. See 37 C.F.R.

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§1.98(c). It is believed that these patents are cumulative, and as such, Applicant does not submit copies of the related patents, as permitted under the rules. Applicant has listed the related patents on Form PTO-1449 for identification purposes.

Each reference in a foreign language includes an English-language Abstract, and for each foreign language reference, Applicant provides a translation of selected portions of the specification (including translations of text associated with selected figures). It is believed that the Abstracts and the partial translations fulfill the requirement of a concise explanation of the relevance thereof.

This IDS is being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97-1.98, but the citation of references should not be construed as an admission that such references are necessarily relevant or are prior art. No representation is intended that the cited references represent the results of a search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search for prior art, consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.104 and, in the course of such search, will review for relevance each and every reference cited on the attached Form PTO-1449.

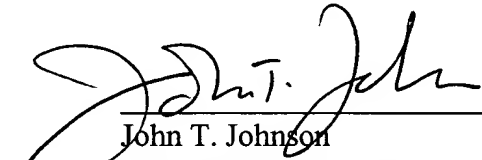
This IDS has been submitted prior to the receipt of a first Office Action in this application. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee is due. In the event that a first Office Action was mailed on or before the date of submission of this disclosure statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0521. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 8, 2002

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